WHITE HOUSE RING REPORTEDLY SPIED ON RADICALS IN '70

Order to Set-Up Intelligence Unit on Continuing Basis Laid to Ehrlichman

DATA WERE SENT TO DEAN

Watergate Sources Indicate That Caulfield and Krogh Also Were Involved

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By SEYMOUR M. HERSH

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WASHINGTON, May 20 — The White House established a secret itelligence unit in 1970 to collect and evaluate information about radical and antiwar groups, sources close to the Watergate investigation said today.

The unit, known as the Intelligence Evaluation Committee, is now clandestinely operated out of the Justice Department's Internal Security Division.

The sources said that the unit reported directly to John W. Dean 3d, the former White House counsel, and John J. Caulfield, a former New York City police detective who has been linked to an alleged Presidential offer of executive clemency to James W. McCord Jr.

The sources said that the intelligence unit had been set up in response to an order from John D. Ehrlichman, who has resigned as chief adviser to President Nixon on domestic affairs because of the Watergate scandal. Egil Krogh Jr., an Ehrlichman aide, is believed to have been connected with the intelligence committee at varying times, the sources said.

Use of Reports Studied

Mr. Krogh resigned as Under Secretary of Transportation two weeks ago after his involvement in the burglary of Dr. Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist became publicly known.

The sources said that government investigators were now attempting to determine whether some of the intelligence committee's highly classified reports may have been used by other Justice Department agencies and the White House to justify undercover and double-agent activities against suspected opposition groups, including Democrats opposed to the Nixon Administration.

Undercover intelligence activities against radical and antiwar groups are legal and have been routinely utilized by Federal and local police agencies. The Nixon Administration has been linked, however, to a number of illegal activities against Democratic candidates stemming from last year's primary elections. These included an allegation that an undercover agent employed by White House officials wrote bogus

Continued on Page 26, Column 3

Continued From Page 1, Col. 8

campaign literature accusing leading Democrats of sexual

Some investigators are known to suspect Mr. Dean may have relied on intelligence estimates produced by the committee to back up his belief that a White House intelligence operation was needed during the Democratic and Republican National Conventions at Miami Beach last year. The committee reports are based on wiretapping plus electronic eavesdropping by such agencies as the Pentagon's National Security Agency.

A number of highly classified documents known to contain electronically intercepted material have been turned over by Mr. Dean to a Federal District Court for safekeeping in connection with the ongoing Watergate investigation. The documents have not been publicly identified.

The intelligence group was publicly mentioned in an exchange at the Senate Watergate hearings Friday with McCord, a convicted member of the Watergate break-in team.

McCord testified that, in early 1972, officials of the Internal Security Division were supplying the Committee for the Reelection of the President with intelligence reports on antiwar and radical activities for possible political use. He also told of making a visit to the analysis and evaluation section of the Internal Security Division to receive the material.

By Ex-F.B.I. Agent

At that point, Senator Lowell P. Weicker Jr., Republican of Connecticut, asked:

"And this, as you understood, you were with the Intelligence Evaluation Committee at that time, or with the officers of it?"

McCord replied, in effect, yes.

A high-ranking Justice Department official confirmed the existence of the intelligence committee and its political uses. He described it in an interview as "answerable only to the White House."

"This was set up by the Nixon Adminstration," the official said. "It's run out of the White House."

The group is operated in the Justice Department by Bernard Wells, said to be a former agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Its members include officials of the F.B.I., the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, and various other police and official units, the Justice Department official said.

The sources said that the intelligence committee had been set up in an attempt to meet what many Administration officials considered to be the extremely grave threat to democracy posed by various radical and antiwar groups who were demonstrating against the Vietnam war and calling for the overthrow of the Government.

To meet the reported threat, the sources said, an elaborate system of undercover activity, including infiltration and the use of double agents, was developed by the F.B.I. and the Internal Security division.

Government officials are now attempting to determine how much control and authority top-level White House officials, such as Mr. Ehrlichman and Mr. Krogh, had over such domestic intelligence operations.

Ehrlichman Agent Reported

Newsweek magazine reported in this week's edition that Anthony T. Ulasewicz, a former New York City policeman, began work in 1969 for Mr. Ehrlichman in the White House as a political undercover agent. The magazine report, confirmed by Government investigators, said thta Mr. Ulasewicz had undertaken such sensitive assignments as an inquiry into a rumor that the brother of a possible Democratic Presidential candidate might have been involved in a homosexual incident.

Investigators said that Mr. Ulasewicz had been recommended to the White House staff by Mr. Caulfield, who was a bodyguard to former Attorney General oJhn N. Mitchell before joniing the White House staff himself in April, 1969. Last week, Mr. Caulfield was placed on administrative leave as assistant director of the Treasury Department's bureau of alcohol, tobacco and firearms.

Sources also identified Mr. Ulasewicz, who was said by Newsweek to have been a trolley-car conductor before joining the New York City police force, as the unnamed official who placed a telephone call to McCord in January to arrange for secret meetings with Mr. Caulfield. McCord told of the call in his televised Senate testimony.

Recruitments Reported

Newsweek also reported that Jeb Stuart Magruder, the former deputy director of the reelection committee, and Herbert L. Porter, another former campaign official, have told Senate investigators that they recruited demonstrators to disdupt Democratic primary campaigns.

Another source told The New York Times that on at least one occasion Republican funds were used by the Republican officials to fly demonstrators to Washington. Newsweek also said that Mr. Ulasewicz was paid in cash by Herbert W. Kalmbach, President Nixon's former personal attorney who has been linked to a number of clandestine Republican cash funds.